

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 05428 240204Z

70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 VO-03 AGR-20 INSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

JUSE-00 TRSE-00 SNM-02 PPT-02 SCA-01 DEAE-00 RSR-01

/156 W

----- 034929

P 240024Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7124

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 5428

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR/MX

SUBJECT: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

REF: (A) MEXICO 5342; (B) MEXICO 5213

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY OBLIGED TO ANSWER FONSECRETARY RABASA'S REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF BORDER SURVEILLANCE MEASURES AT AN EARLY DATE. FURTHER, WE DEEM DESIRABLE AN EFFORT TO COUNTER CONTINUING NEGATIVE PUBLICITY ON THIS ISSUE. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY REQUESTS EARLIEST NOTIFICATION OF RESPONSE BEING PREPARED IN WASHINGTON FOR PRESENTATION TO AMBASSADOR DE OLLOQUI. LIKEWISE WE REQUEST WASHINGTON'S REACTION TO PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE CONTAINED IN THIS TELEGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE FONSECRETARY RABASA DIRECTLY AND OFFICIALLY REQUESTED EXPLANATION FROM AMBASSADOR MCBRIDE CONCERNING MEASURES UNDERTAKEN TO CONTROL FLOW OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (REFTEL B), EMBASSY IS STILL UNDER THE GUN TO MAKE A TIMELY AND DETAILED RESPONSE. IN THIS REGARD, WHILE STATE 140666 PROVIDES INFORMATION SUITABLE FOR USE IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 05428 240204Z

MEDIA RESPONSE, IT IS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR OFFICIAL EXPLANA-

TION REQUESTED. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY REQUESTS PRIORITY CABLE NOTIFICATION WHEN OFFICIAL EXPLANATION IS GIVEN TO AMBASSADOR DE OLLOQUI AND ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THAT EXPLANATION FOR PROMPT RELAY TO FONSECRETARY RABASA.

3. COMPLEX PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS REMAINS VERY PROMINENT PRESS STORY. DESPITE VOLUMINOUS COVERAGE, THERE HAVE BEEN FEW INQUIRIES DIRECTED TO EMBASSY, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF READY-MADE MATERIAL FROM WIRE SERVICES AND REALIZATION OF FACT THAT SOURCES ARE IN US. EMBASSY NOW BELIEVES IT ADVISABLE TO TAKE INITIATIVE TO PLACE STORY IN PERSPECTIVE. WE REALIZE THAT BY ITS CHRONIC NATURE THIS ISSUE IS LIABLE TO REAPPEAR IN PRESS POSSIBLY WITH INCREASED VIGOR. PRESENT PUBLICITY IS FULL OF SO MANY DISTORTIONS AS POSSIBLY TO RESULT IN DISADVANTAGEOUS HARDENING OF MEXICAN PUBLIC OPINION IF NOT RECTIFIED.

4. WITH FOREGOING IN MIND, EMBASSY PORPOSES TO ISSUE A PRESS RELEASE ALONG LINES BELOW. ALTERNATIVELY, AN APPROPRIATE HIGH-LEVEL WASHINGTON OFFICIAL MIGHT MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT WHICH THEN WOULD BE PICKED UP BY MEDIA. IF POSSIBLE, WE WOULD HOPE GOM MIGHT ISSUE SEPARATE STATEMENT CITING MUTUAL EFFORTS TO ALLEVIATE PROBLEMS. IF DEPARTMENT AGREES, WE MIGHT SOLICIT SUCH STATEMENT AT SUCH TIME THAT EXPLANATION IS PRESENTED TO RABASA.

5. PROPOSED TEXT WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) RECENTLY, THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY CONCERNING MEASURES TAKEN BY UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO MONITOR AND CONTROL THE FLOW OF GOODS AND PEOPLE ACROSS THE MEXICO-US BORDER. THE USG REGRETS THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHICH MAY HAVE ARISEN AS A RESULT OF IMPRECISE AND INCOMPLETE STATEMENTS OF WHAT ACTION IS BEING CARRIED OUT.

(B) JUST AS WE SHARE A LONG COMMON FRONTIER WITH MEXICO, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SHARES WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO PRIDE IN THE PEACEFUL AND OPEN NATURE OF THAT BORDER. NONETHELESS, IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT THE FRONTIER HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO ABUSES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 05428 240204Z

BY CITIZENS OF BOTH COUNTRIES WHO, CHOOSING TO IGNORE THE LAWS OF THE ONE OR BOTH COUNTRIES, HAVE ENGAGED IN A VARIETY OF PROSCRIBED ACTIVITIES. IN ORDER TO COMBAT SUCH ACTIVITY, EACH GOVERNMENT INDEPENDENTLY HAS UNDERTAKEN ITS OWN MEASURES OF INSPECTION AND CONTROL.

(C) SINCE 1960, THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAS MAINTAINED SHORT STRETCHES OF WIRE FENCE IN THE IMMEDIATE

VICINITY OF THREE MAJOR CROSS-OVER POINTS. AT PRESENT THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 18.4 KMS. OF SUCH FENCING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF SAN ISIDRO AND CALEXICO, CALIFORNIA AND EL PASO, TEXAS. APPROVAL BY THE US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF MAINTENANCE FUNDING FOR THESE FENCES SERVED AS THE BASIS OF A RECENT CONTROVERSIAL NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ALLEGING THAT THE US PLANNED CONSTRUCTION OF A FENCE ALONG ENTIRE FRONTIER. ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE KENNETH RUSH AND DR. HENRY KISSINGER OF THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF EXPLAINED THIS MATTER TO FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA. THE MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARIAT SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED A STATEMENT CLEARLY DENYING THE STORY THAT THE US WAS CONTEMPLATING CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH A FENCE.

(D) A SEPARATE ISSUE WAS RAISED IN A LATER STORY WRITTEN BY DAVID ANDELMAN IN THE NEW YORK TIMES DISCUSSING THE USE OF ELECTRONIC DETECTION DEVICES IN BORDER AREAS. THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE STARTED THE EXPERIMENTAL USE OF ELECTRONIC SENSING DEVICES IN THE CHULA VISTA AREA IN 1970. THIS PROVED HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL AND WAS GRADUALLY EXPANDED. THE DEVICES IN QUESTION ARE COMPLETELY HARMLESS AND ARE LOCATED ONLY AT POINTS WHERE TRAFFIC IS CONFINED TO THOSE CLANDESTINE CROSSINGS OF PERSONS WHO, FOR WHATEVER REASON, WISH TO AVOID MOVEMENT THROUGH ESTABLISHED CONTROL POINTS.

(E) THE US GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO ENCOURAGE FREE EXCHANGE OF PEOPLE AND GOODS AND THE EXISTING CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. AT THE SAME TIME BOTH OUR COUNTRIES HAVE A MUTUAL INTEREST IN CONTROLLING THE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS WHO ARE NOT PROPERLY DOCUMENTED AND IN COMBATTING THE FLOW OF ILLICIT SUBSTANCES, BE THEY NARCOTICS OR OTHER ITEMS OF CONTRABAND. FOR THIS REASON, EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE TOOLS WHICH

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MEXICO 05428 240204Z

WILL ENABLE THE LIMITED NUMBER OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS STATIONED ALONG THE BORDER TO DO THEIR JOB MORE EFFICIENTLY.

MCBRIDE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MIGRATORY WORKERS, IMMIGRATION CONTROL, BORDER CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MEXICO05428
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MCBRIDE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730714/aaaaakfw.tel
Line Count: 158
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 MEXICO 5342
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by smithrj>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS
TAGS: PBOR, MX, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005